



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

SEP 23 2005

The Honorable Bill Frist
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Frist:

Re: Declaration of a Public Health Emergency

I am writing to notify you that, as a consequence of Hurricane Rita, on September 23, 2005, I determined that a public health emergency exists and has existed since September 20, 2005 in the States of Texas and Louisiana, pursuant to the authority vested in me under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. § 247d.



Michael O. Leavitt
Secretary